

The Rubbish RESOURCE



A Publication of the N.H. Department of Environmental Services Waste Management Division

Summer 2001

Mission Accomplished! *The Release of the Governor's Solid Waste Task Force Report*



Governor Jeanne Shaheen has announced the submittal of the report from the Solid Waste Task Force that she established in September of 1999. The Task Force was named to address growing concerns expressed by a variety of impacted constituencies, most notably, municipal and business

interests. These concerns included an increase in cost for the disposal of solid wastes; potential competitive disadvantages to independent waste haulers resulting from industry consolidation; and the impact on New Hampshire's disposal capacity from the importation of solid waste from neighboring states.

The Governor's Solid Waste Task Force was comprised of representatives of municipal government, the Legislature, environmental regulatory agencies, the Attorney General office, as well as industry, environmental and business interests. The Task Force was charged with several objectives, including: assisting the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services in their review of changes in the solid waste industry; identifying long-term options to address the importation of solid waste; identifying and investigating recent cost increases; and providing recommendations for future solid waste disposal options for the residents and businesses of New Hampshire.

Brad Richards, the Chair of the State's Waste Management Council, also served as the Chair for the Task Force. "The report was done in a very professional manner, sometimes with diverse input. We feel the Governor should be very proud of the

report and of the twenty-seven citizens who have done an excellent service for the state."

The report lists a number of findings regarding the concerns. Key findings include: the trend to industry consolidation is not limited to New Hampshire – it is regional and national; there is adequate disposal capacity in the state until 2010; imports have decreased; and the cost of solid waste disposal in NH compared to other states in the region is on the high end, although not by much. Disposal costs at incinerators tracked below inflation and costs at landfills were above inflation. Cost is affected by many things, such as the proximity of the disposal facility and the ability to negotiate better prices.

The Task Force has made 26 recommendations addressing the concerns. Many of the recommendations are directed at state agencies, but the report notes that the responsibility of implementing the recommendations should be shared by both the public and private sectors, as well as the Legislature.

Tim Fortier, of McLane Graf, Raulerson and Middleton, served as the chair of the cost subcommittee and stated, "In many respects, this Task Force review is just the beginning as there continue to be concerns that cannot be addressed by the Task Force alone. The Task Force has benchmarked these issues for ongoing monitoring. Hopefully, this report will place these important concerns on the radar screens of policymakers across the state."

The report is available at no charge from the DES web page, www.des.state.nh.us, or hard copies may be obtained for \$10.00 from the Department's Public Information Center (271-2975).

2001 SOLID WASTE CONFERENCE

This a **free** day-long annual event which includes many topics of interest to solid waste management professionals, municipal officials, and concerned citizens. The conference also includes a vendor show. For more information and registration information, contact Laura Langlois at 271-1749, visit our website at www.des.state.nh.us/pcas, or email us at nhpcas@des.state.nh.us. See you there!

Date: Wednesday
September 19, 2001

Time: 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM **Location:** Geneva Point Conference Center
Moultonborough, NH

PARTNERSHIPS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LODGING

When you're on vacation, do you often have bottles, cans, newspaper or other items that you can't seem to recycle? Millions of people who come to New Hampshire each year to enjoy the lakes, mountains, beaches and open spaces have the same problem. Furthermore, many lodging establishments are interested but have not yet instituted waste, water and energy practices that are both economically feasible and environmentally friendly.



Eastern Slope Inn, North Conway recently improved environmental programs through a DES pilot project.

With respect to waste management, overnight accommodations for one person can generate an astounding 14 lbs of solid waste on average, more than four times the New Hampshire per capita amount! In fact, waste audit studies indicate that up to 70% of this waste can be composted, recycled or reused, leaving much less waste to be disposed of in a landfill or incinerator.

Promoting environmental practices at lodging facilities is not new. States such as Vermont, North Carolina, Florida and California provide assistance to lodging facilities and tourists to encourage recycling, and reduce water or energy use. Together with partners the tourism industry, work begins this summer to develop a New Hampshire program.

DES is working in cooperation with the New Hampshire Travel Council, New Hampshire Lodging and Restaurant Association, the New Hampshire Campground Association, as well as WasteCap/NH. Support for the environment is strong in the tourism community, and already businesses have expressed interest in such a program.

Typical Lodging Waste

Material	%	Material	%
Food	28.0%	HDPE	0.9%
Newspaper	12.7%	C&D	0.9%
Remainder Paper	8.8%	PETE	0.8%
Cardboard	5.7%	White Ledger	0.8%
Film Plastic	4.9%	Paper Bags	0.7%
Other Paper	4.4%	Mixed Residue	0.7%
Clear Glass	4.3%	Tin/Steel Cans	0.7%
Brown Glass	3.5%	Computer Paper	0.6%
Composite Organic	2.8%	Other Plastic Containers	0.5%
Leaves and Grass	2.6%	Aluminum Cans	0.5%
Textiles	2.0%	Composite Glass	0.4%
Composite Plastic	1.8%	Other Office Paper	0.4%
Magazines and Catalogs	1.7%	Tires	0.4%
Prunings and Trimmings	1.7%	Remainder Metal	0.2%
Green Glass	1.6%	Other Non-Ferrous	0.1%
Other Ferrous	1.4%	Rock, Soil & Fines	0.1%
Durable Plastic Items	1.3%	Concrete	0.1%
Phone Books & Directory	1.1%	Color Ledger	0.1%

Source: California Integrated Waste Management Board

The Partnership for Environmental Lodging Program will provide technical assistance to the lodging industry in the form of environmental audits, guidance documents, as well as market and vendor information. It will also focus on education and promotion of the importance of better environmental management.

Municipal officials and business managers interested in participating in the development of this program or in need of some guidance information can contact Pierce Rigrod of DES at prigrod@des.state.nh.us or at 271-3713.

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CONCORD NH 03301
PERMIT NO. 1478